

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-10 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-04

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 AF-06

ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 /152 W

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT UNCTAD ITC

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER STAFF REGRADING

1. ACABQ REPORT ON ITC BUDGET FOR 1976-1977 BIENNIUM WILL BE TAKEN UP BY GATT BUDGET COMMITTEE SEPTEMBER 29. ITC DIRECTOR SANTIAPILLAI EXTREMELY ANXIOUS HAVE BUDGET COMMITTEE TAKE ACTION PERMITTING HIM TO UPGRADE POST (AND INCUMBENT) OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES SECTION HEAD FROM P-5 TO D-1 LEVEL. HE HAD REQUESTED ACABQ APPROVAL FOR THIS STEP BUT WAS TURNED DOWN SINCE ACABQ'S VIEW "CONCLUSIVE EVICENCE" FOR REGRADING POST WAS LACKING. SANTIAPILLAI CLAIMS HE WAS PREPARED TO OFFER VIGOROUS AND POWERFUL ORAL JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST DURING HIS APPEARANCE BEFORE ACABQ BUT WAS NOT QUESTIONED ABOUT MATTER AND ASSUMED COMMITTEE'S SILENCE MEANT ACQUIESCENCE.

2. SANTIAPILLAI REALIZES IT IMPOSSIBLE AT THIS STAGE TO OVER-TURN ACABQ DECISION REGARDING OVERALL AMOUNT OF BUDGET REDUCTION (\$186,000) WHICH HAD BEEN RECOMMENDED. HE FEELS, HOWEVER, THAT IF GATT BUDGET COMMITTEE WOULD TAKE POSITION THAT HIS RECOMMENDATION TO REGRADE POST HAD MERIT AND AGREED

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TO GIVE HIM DISCRETION TO READJUST ITC STAFFING PATTERN

WITHIN THE BUDGET CEILING APPROVED BY ACABQ (I.E., LETTING THE \$186,000 REDUCTION STAND), HE COULD GO AHEAD WITH REGRADING WHILE KEEPING WITHIN PRESENT BUDGET CEILING, AND THINKS THAT ACABQ WOULD GO ALONG.

3. SANTIAPILLAI'S NASIC ARGUMENT IS THAT SINCE 1973, ADMIN SERVICES POST HAS HAD GREATLY INCREASED RESPONSIBILITIES, INCLUDING ASSUMPTION OF DIRECT SUPERVISION OF ITC ADMIN STAFF (PREVIOUSLY SUPERVISED BY GATT); DISCHARGE OF NEW AND IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITIES FLOWING FROM NEW ADMIN ARRANGEMENTS WORKED OUT LAST YEAR WITH UNNY, UNOG AND UNCTAD; AND HANDLING SOME \$708 MILLION IN ADDITIONAL RESOURCES. THESE NEW RESPONSIBILITIES REQUIRE HIGHER DEGREE OF EXECUTIVE ABILITY THAN HERETOFORE. PRESENT INCUMBENT (WHO HAS BEEN AT TOP STEP OF P-5 FOR FOUR YEARS) HAS SHOWN OUTSTANDING JUDGEMENT AND INITIATIVE WHICH ALSO MUST BE GIVEN RECOGNITION BOTH FOR REASONS OF FAIRNESS AND TO SUSTAIN STAFF MORALE. SANTIAPILLAI ALSO NOTES THAT POSITION IN QUESTION IS ONLY ONE OF HEAD OF SECTION NOT AT D-1 LEVEL.

4. MISSION BELIEVES PROPOSED REGRADING IS JUSTIFIED, AND WOULD STRENGTHEN ITC PERFORMANCE AND MORALE. REQUEST AUTHORITY FOR USDEL TO GATT BUDGET COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT PROPOSAL ALLOWING CENTER DIRECTOR TO UPGRADE POST ON UNDERSTANDING THAT BUDGET CEILING ESTABLISHED BY ACABQ WOULD NOT BE EXCEEDED. DALE

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